



**COVERS**—Front: Cdr. Chris Buhlmann shot this self-portrait from the back seat of an F/A-18B Hornet of the Naval Strike Aircraft Test Squadron (now VX-23) while in a hard right roll after taking off at the Patuxent River, Md., test range in July 2001. A former active duty S-3 Viking Naval Flight Officer, Cdr. Buhlmann is an aviation engineering duty officer in the Naval Reserve. Back: a flight deck shooter and an aircraft final checker “feel the heat” while preparing to launch an F/A-18C from one of the four steam-driven catapults aboard *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Photo by PH2 Inez Lawson. This page: Ted Carlson photographed two Marine All-Weather Fighter Attack Squadron 121 F/A-18Ds with a KC-130F Hercules of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352. The top Hornet is equipped with the advanced tactical air reconnaissance pod system.





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